
From: John King [mailto:afishinado@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2007 8:10 PM
To: MLPAComments
Subject: Simple Solutions, i.e., Catalina Island

As a life long fisherman and current charter boat operator, I am very puzzled by the big effort behind the MPAs. The commercial take of (sport) fish and related sub species has the most dramatic impact on the fishery. The commercial fishing industry is the smallest stakeholder (in terms of numbers), and finally, the easiest to police. Given that the science supports the value of islands, offshore banks and coastal structure, it makes sense to limit or eliminate the commercial take of fishes within a certain distance of these ecosystem generators.

Catalina has banned the commercial take of lobster on the 'front side'. As a result, there is a thriving population of lobster available for recreational take.

Black Sea Bass are a no-take species. In the highly fished areas of Catalina Island we have seen a strong resurgence of this fish in spite of the fact that some members are killed accidentally by rod and reel anglers.

Wouldn't a simple solution be to keep commercial efforts at bay in the highly sensitive areas rather than go to such incredible efforts as are evidenced in the MPA process?

Just my two cents.

All the Best,
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